

Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2015

Members in Attendance: Kerrie Fallon, Michael Rademacher, Susan James, Cynthia DeAngelis

Members Absent: John Thompson, Maureen St. Hilaire

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator, Beverley Bevilacqua, Advocate, Susan Tenant, Advocate

Meeting began at 4:05 P.M.

Meeting Minutes February 18, 2015:

Michael Rademacher made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, seconded by Susan James.

Commission Membership:

Jack Jones said that Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager, has recommended Beverley Bevilacqua and Susan Tennant to the Board of Selectmen for appointment to the Commission. Jack said that if the Board of Selectmen approves the Town Manager's recommendations there will remain one open position on the Commission.

Announcements:

Jack Jones said that the new Director of the Massachusetts Office on Disability is David D'Arcangelo, a former Republican candidate for Secretary of State. Jack said that the new Director brings several years of experience in working with individuals with disabilities. He is also considered an authority on Government Policy.

Annual Report:

Jack Jones said that the Commission's Annual Report has been submitted as required by Massachusetts General Law.

Conflict of Interest Law Requirements:

All members of Town Commissions and Committees are required to have completed the Conflict of Interest Training. Jack Jones provided the Web site for on line training and requested that by April 3, 2015 all members of the Commission complete this training.

Commission Budget:

Jack Jones said that \$1,600 of the \$3,000 Commission budget remains unspent. Kerrie said that the Commission should consider the purchase of a more updated audio recorder. Cynthia

DeAngelis said that the Commission should look into the purchase of puppets for the purpose of teaching about disabilities.

Commission Manual:

Michael Rademacher suggested that this manual when completed be referred to as part of the new member information packet.

ADA Coordinators Report:

Jack Jones said that the Somerville ADA Coordinator inquired as to transportation for a disabled Arlington resident that is employed by the City of Somerville. This request was for approximately two weeks while this person's wheelchair van was being repaired. It was determined that transportation outside Arlington would not be approved. The second request was in regards to removing snow in order to widen a curb cut ramp near a mobility impaired residents apartment at Drake Village. Jack Jones said that he would talk to the Chairperson of the Housing Authority regarding this issue.

Other Business:

Kerrie Fallon questioned if HP placards were allowable in residents only parking areas within Arlington. Michael Rademacher said that he was not sure if there are any residents only parking in Arlington. Kerrie said that she would inquire at the Police Department regarding this issue. Cynthia DeAngelis suggested that the Commission have an article in the Advocate where residents could ask a question pertaining to disability issues that would then be answered by the Commission or ADA Coordinator.

Jack Jones said that Representative Sean Garballey was recognized by the ARC of Massachusetts and by the Developmental Disabilities Council at the State House for his efforts in helping individuals with disabilities. Kerrie suggested that the Commission invite Representative Garballey to a future Commission meeting in order to discuss issues of interest to the Commission. Jack said that he would contact Representative's Garballey's office about his attending a Commission Meeting.

Jack Jones discussed the Attorney Generals open meeting changes as they pertain to Commission's on Disability.

ADA Public Ways Self Evaluation:

Michael Rademacher said that the VHB Engineering Firm is completing the self- evaluation of the Town's public ways. Mike said that this report should soon be available.

Curb Cut Ramps:

Michael Rademacher requested that a list of additional curb cut ramps be prepared during the next month in order that the contractor when he returns in the spring will be able to continue installing ramps. Michael said that over the past four to five years approximately 300 curb cut ramps have been installed within the Town. Jack Jones questioned if there are funds available for sidewalk repair. Michael said that at this time sidewalk repair work would take funds away

from street repair. Michael said that when the self-evaluation is completed he will be able to request in the Capital Plan funds specifically to be provided for sidewalk repair.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.